



California State Parks

Quick Facts



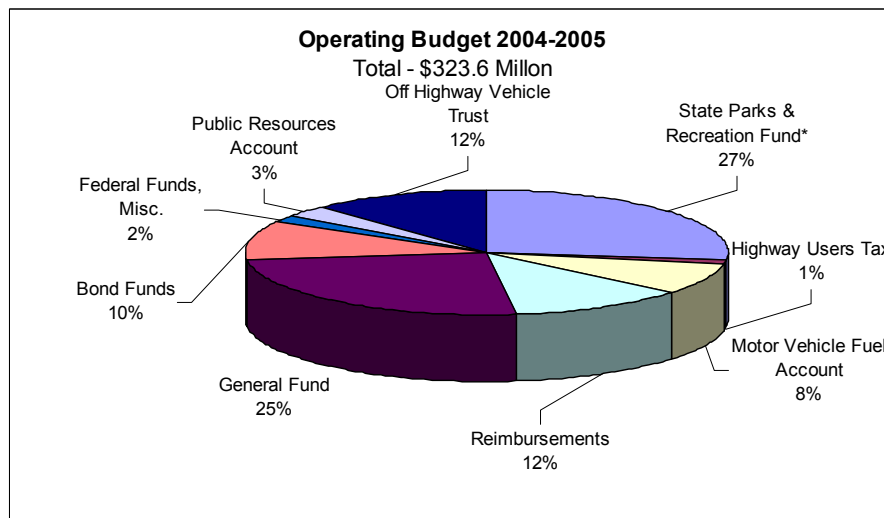
Last updated 12/16/2004

Topical Matters

Park Fee Increase

California State Park fees increased July 1, 2004 to off set budget cuts, provide additional funding for ongoing maintenance and seasonal staff to keep the parks open and operating for millions of visitors. With the passage of the 2004-05 State Budget, the General Fund appropriation for State Parks was reduced by \$15 million. The July 1, 2004

fee increase will allow parks to recapture this loss, as well as raise an additional \$3 million. Of the additional \$3 million, \$1 million will be used to hire seasonal personnel required to staff the kiosks and entrance stations to collect the fees, and \$2 million will be used to address maintenance needs throughout the park system.



California State Parks' 2004-2005 Operating Budget is \$323.6 Million, from the following sources:

▪ State Parks and Recreation Fund*	\$ 87.1 Million
▪ General Fund	\$ 82.3 Million
▪ Reimbursements	\$ 38.1 Million
▪ Off-Highway Vehicle Trust	\$ 37.8 Million
▪ Bond Funds	\$ 31.2 Million
▪ Motor Vehicle Fuel Account	\$ 26.6 Million
▪ Public Resources Account	\$ 10.7 Million
▪ Federal Funds/Miscellaneous	\$ 6.4 Million
▪ Highway Users Tax (Roads)	\$ 3.4 Million

*State Parks and Recreation Fund: The State Parks and Recreation Fund (SPRF) was created by legislation in 1979, Chapter 1065, Statutes of 1979 (Public Resources Code 5010). All fees[#] earned by the department from camping, day use, museums, concessions, etc. are deposited into SPRF and are "available for expenditure for state park planning, acquisition, and development projects, operation of the state park system, and resource and property management and protection, when appropriated by the Legislature." Historically, SPRF revenues have been used for the support of the State Park System. None of the fees earned by the Department are deposited into the State's General Fund.

[#]Note: exception—fees earned at State Vehicular Recreation Areas are deposited in the Off-Highway Vehicle Trust Fund and fees earned at Sno-Parks are deposited into the Winter Recreation Fund.



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Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Fire Damage

In October 2003, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park suffered the worst wildfire in its, and the California State Park System's, history. Virtually all 25,000 acres of the park were scorched. Campgrounds, historic structures, restrooms, entrance stations, picnic sites, and employee residences were destroyed. Since then, time and nature have worked wonders. The Green Valley campground is open, many trails are available for hikers and equestrians, wildflowers returned in the spring, and green is again becoming the predominant color in the park. Thanks to volunteers, dedicated park staff and inmate crews from the La Cima Conservation Camp, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park is rising from the ashes.

Snowy Plover Protection

The Western Snowy Plover is listed as a threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The sparrow-sized birds nest in simple depressions in the sand on beaches and in dunes on Central California beaches. Because of their coloring, they are well camouflaged and can be disturbed by visitors who are not even aware of their presence. California State Parks is doing its part to protect the birds and their nests by fencing off or posting nesting areas, restricting recreation and banning dogs on effected beaches during the appropriate season. The management of the plover nesting areas in State Parks is helping to significantly increase the numbers of successful fledglings.